## ROYAL FAMILY OF JAPAN

BY FREDERIC J. HASKIN

Tokio. July 8.—"Give us a personal story about the mikado." wrote the editor when airangements were being made for my work in the Orient. The chief little knew what a task he was laying out for me. The first official to whom I mentioned my desire of obtaining information concerning the temperament and habits of the emperor, said: "If it were known at the palace that you intended to write such an article you would be requested to abandon the idea at once. Please do not refer to it again."

"But why not?" I persisted. "The request is prompted by the best of motives. Our people have a friendly interest in the Japanese and admire them greatly. They merely want to know, the intimate facts about your states to place of the people to sear-sickness is said to be the reason why the emperor does.

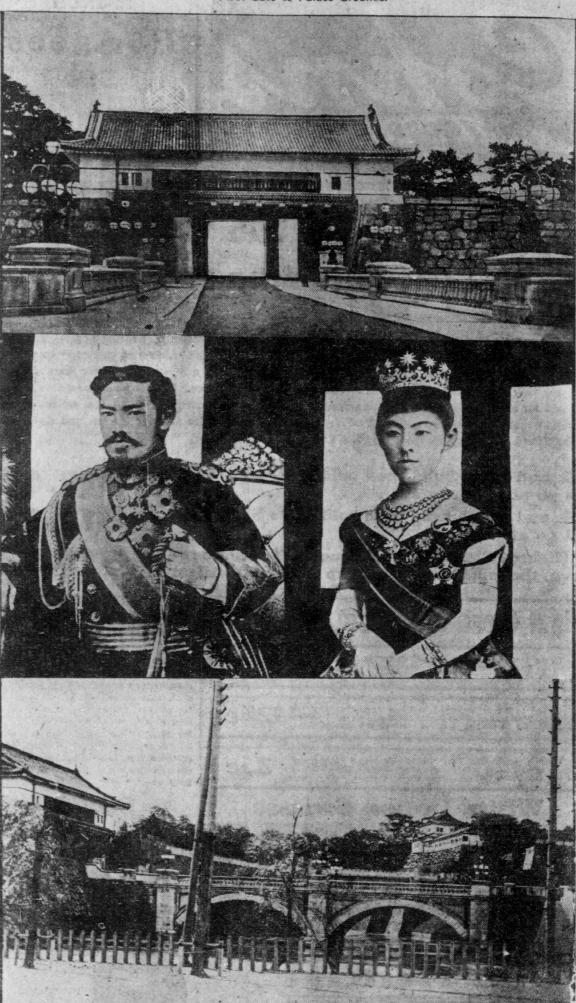
That he never shows emotion. If there are moments when his anger gets beyond control, no reports of such reach farther than the palace walls.

Facts About the Mikado.

The emperor has absolutely no amusements. When a young man he was quite skillful in the practice of archery, and for a time spent a portion of each day in drilling a company of troops. He is taller than the average of rheumatism. When he appears in public he is always attired in military uniform. He wears a trimmed beard and his face was protected from view by a richly embroidered curtain. It was a strict rule of tered curtain. It was a strict rule of the red curtain in the sarch farther than the palace walls.

The emperor has absolutely no amusements. When a young man he was quite skillful in the practice of a curtained car of state. His name could not be spoken aloud by the raveled in a curtained car of state. His name could not be spoken aloud by the raveled in a curtained car of state. His name could not be spoken aloud by the raveled in a curtained car of state. His name could not be spoken aloud by the raveled in a curtained car of state. His name could not be spoken aloud by the raveled in a curtained car of state. His name could not be spoken aloud by the

First Gate to Palace Grounds.



The Emperor of Japan.

Approach to Imperial Palace.

Approach to imperial Palace.

sovereign in order to become better sequainted." It was no use. Further food sour and repeated assurances of size of the source of the source of wise polite and obliging official to discuss the subject. My efforts met the same reception no matter of whom I inquired, it is a topic about which no one will converse.

Unlawful to Discuss Emperor.

The cause of all this reticence is found in the third article of the constitution of Japan, which says: "The state of the special content of the constitution of Japan, which says: "The three explanation of this clause is unade: "The emperor is heaven-feecended, divine and sacred. His sailowed throne was catabilished at the became separated. He is pre-eminent above all his subjects. The saw has no power to hold him accountable to it. Not only shall there be no irreverence became separated. He is pre-eminent above all his subjects. The saw has no power to hold him accountable to it. Not only shall there be no irreverence became separated. He is pre-eminent above all his subjects. The saw has no power to hold him accountable to it. Not only shall there be no irreverence became separated. He is pre-eminent above all his subjects. The saw has no power to hold him accountable to it. Not only shall there be no irreverence became separated. He is pre-eminent above all his subjects. The saw has no power to hold him accountable to it. Not only shall there be no irreverence became separated. He is pre-eminent above all his subjects is the same to the subject of the preliminary subjects. The saw has no power to hold him accountable to it. Not only shall there be no irreverence became separated. He is pre-eminent above all his subjects is the same to the subject of the preliminary subjects. The saw has no power to hold him accountable to it. Not only shall there be no irreverence to see that the Japan. The same to the same to the same to the subject of the same to the subject of the preliminary subjects. The

The Empress of Japan.

It required weeks of persistent effort to ascertain what is herein contained. Although it was gathered piecemeal from many sources, its reliability in most instances is reasonably certain the mystery which surrounds the mystery which surrounds the mikado is not due to his being tyrannical, nor because his daily life is such that it will not bear publicity. On the contrary, his acts are invariably tempered by clemency and his habits are marked by a simplicity which is almost frugal.

He has no dissipations and practices the utmost regularity, spending his whole time in the discharge of official ditles. Morning, noon and night he receives his ministers to discuss with them the affairs of state. He is sain the faculty of being able to choose trustworthy assistants. Although his majesty cannot read or speak any language other than his own, he is an invectorate reader of newspapers, keeping his interpreters busy translating the utterances of the foreign press for his perusal. Quite in conformity with the idea his subjects has used to consent the utmost regularity with the cleam of the present soon of Heaven sat upon a lightly than was put around his annoted the misses of the foreign press for his perusal. Quite in conformity with the idea his subjects has subjects have the affairs of his people as the present soon of heaven sat upon a lightly through his majesty cannot read or speak any language other than his own, he is an invectorate reader of newspapers his interpreters busy translating the utterances of the foreign press for his perusal. Quite in conformity with the idea his subjects have the safe of emergency courageously sacsumed the present soon in he present month of his people as the present soon is heapend and sixty-five years. Greater progress has been made in the last half century than occurred during all the timesince of this are provided for all schools and it is frequently read sloud as the children of the present soon of the present soon of the present soon of the present soon is heapend and the winc

rifice yourselves to the public good.
Offer every support to Our Imperial Dynasty, which shall be as lasting as the universe. You will then be Our most loyal subjects."

The Imperial Invitation.

"By order of their majesties, the em-

Her Majesty, the Empress.

The empress of Janan is a noble and inspiring character. Her name is Haruko, and she is the daughter of a hobic of the highest rank. She is two hobic of the highest rank. She is two years older than the Mikado, Her in Japanese history occurred in lass. A further indication of the sacredness in which the imperial personages are held is shown by the incident which occurred when it was determined that the court laddes should adopt European dress. At this time great difficulty was experienced in getting clothes to fit her royal highness. The profance hands of a dressmaker could not be allowed to touch the person of the empress. so a court lady had to pose as a model until the garments were gradually made to fit. The empress has a poetic inclination and is the author of several volumes of verse. One of the features of all state occasions is the singing of a song by the school children which was composed for them by her majesty. During the rendition of this song the children stand with their heads bowed as if in prayer. The empress takes a great interest in all school work and has in her private apartments a large collection of the best speciments of poetry, painting and composition done by the pupils of the empire.

"Home in Hearts of People." The empress of Japan is a noble

and composition done by the pupils of the empire.

"Home in Hearts of People."

A story is told which reveals the kindlines of her majesty's character. Some years ago, when the castle in Tokio was burned, the emperor and empress were forced to take temporary quarters in a near-by house, which was old and rather out of repair. Although the proportions of the place were ample, it was altogether lacking in the luxuries of the palace. A representative of the people expressed to the empress the grief which her subjects felt because she was denied her usual conveniences. She arose to the occasion by writing a graceful little poem, in which she said that it mattered little how she was situated so long as she was sure of a home in the hearts of her people.

Another story illustrates her maintained a pretty and imposing spectacle. The brilliant gardens, with their winding walks and mirror lakes with their rustic bridges, formed a fitting background to the picture as the stately little empress led her dignified procession under the flaming arch of the cherry trees. The beauty of the gardens and the color of the pageant left a pleasing memory, but the most enduring recollection was the absolute devotion in the demeanor of the Japanese as their empress went by.

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tered little how she was situated so long as she was sure of a home in the hearts of her people.

Another story illustrates her majesty's consideration for the happiness of children. One of the little princesses once conceived the unreasonable idea of wanting to give a cherry blossom party in December. Although April is the earliest that these trees may be expected to put forth their delicate buds, skilled artificers were called in and after much labor created the desired effect by pinning to the trees myriads of pink and white blossoms made of tissue paper. Thus the whim of the eccentric little princess was gratified. This reminds one of the story related in history of the unusual deception which was once used at an European court to gratify a capricious princess who wanted to go sleigh riding in midsummer. To secure the effect of snow the ground was covered with salt, over which the imperial sleighing party took its way with much hilarity. The two great events in the social life of Japan are the garden parties given twice a vear by their imperial The two great events in the social Mfe of Japan are the garden parties given twice a year by their imperial highnesses in the palace gardens. One is given in the spring when the cherry blossoms are in bloom, and the other in the fall during the time of the chrysophthemums. During my stay in

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